



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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LEGAL DUCK KILL IN 1949 ESTIMATED AT 18.5 MILLION

The liberalized migratory waterfowl hunting regulations in effect during the 1949-50 shooting season raised the legal kill of wild ducks by 1.5 million, Director Albert M. Day of the Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

Based on an analysis of data gathered from 87,127 bag checks and 25,600 post-season hunter contacts, the wild duck kill index figure for the United States during the past hunting season was 18.5 million birds. The index for the 1948-49 season was 17 million.

Although the number of hunters declined about 10 percent to 1,676,400 in 1949, Mr. Day declared that in addition to the increase of 10 days in the length of the shooting season, hunters had greater hunting opportunity because large flocks were concentrated in the steadily diminishing areas still suitable for migratory waterfowl. Also, millions of ducks and geese remained in the United States during the mild fall instead of wintering in Mexico or other southern points, which is their normal procedure.

Distributions of hunters and kill by flyways was as follows:

States in the Pacific flyway had 21 percent of the hunters and 23 percent of the kill. In 1948 this flyway had 19 percent of the hunters and 27 percent of the kill.

The Central flyway States had 24 percent of the hunters and 18 percent of the kill, a reduction of 3 percent in hunters but an increase of 4 percent in kill when compared with the previous season.

The Mississippi flyway States had 42 percent of the hunters and 46 percent of the kill, representing a 1 percent increase in hunters and a 5 percent increase in kill over 1948.

The Atlantic flyway States had 12 percent of the hunters and 12 percent of the kill. In 1948 they had 13 percent of the hunters and 10 percent of the kill.

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